

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): An isolated protein having no O-glycosylation and at least 70% homology of amino acid sequence with human serum CD14.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A protein according to claim 1 wherein its amino acid sequence is at least about 95% homologous with the amino acid sequence of human serum CD14.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A protein according to claim 1 wherein its amino acid sequence is at least about 95% homologous with the amino acid sequence of bovine or buffalo CD14.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A protein according to any preceding claim wherein the protein has a plurality of N-glycosylation sites.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A protein according to claim 4 which comprises from about 3 to about 5 N-glycosylation sites.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A protein according to any preceding claim wherein the presence of the protein is not revealed in a Western blot by the known commercially available anti-CD14 monoclonal antibody MY4.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A protein according to any preceding claim isolated from mature human, bovine or buffalo milk.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A method of production of a protein according to any preceding claim which comprises isolating it from mature milk.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A composition which comprises a protein according to any one of claims 1 to 7 excluding mature milk.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 9 which comprises a physiologically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or diluent.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 9 or 10 which comprises a casein fraction and milk fat.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A composition according to any one of claims 9 to 11 which comprises a lipopolysaccharide binding protein (LBP), decay accelerating factor (DAF, CD55), bactericidal permeability increasing factor (BPI) or a mixture thereof.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A composition according to any one of claims 9 to 12 in the form of an infant formula or enteral composition.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A composition according to any one of claims 9 to 13 which comprises at least 25µg/ml of a protein according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A method of production of a composition according to any one of claims 9 to 14 which comprises adding a protein according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): Use of a CD14 variant or fragment that retains the bioactivity of CD14 in the manufacture of a nutritional product or medicament for the treatment or prevention of a GI tract disorder.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): Use according to claim 16 wherein the GI tract disorder is selected from the group which comprises inflammatory bowel disease, Crone's disease, ulcerative colitis, coeliac disease, intestinal bacterial overgrowth, chronic hepatitis, necrotizing enterocolitis, neonatal sepsis, infectious diarrhea, disbalance of the intestinal microflora, allergic reactions to food and bacterial translocation from the gut to other compartments of the body.

Claim 18 (presently amended): A method of treatment or prevention of a GI tract disorder in a patient which comprises the step of administering to the patient an effective amount of a CD14 variant or fragment thereof which retains the bioactivity of CD14.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method for the treatment or prevention of Claim 18 wherein the effective amount of a CD14 variant or fragment thereof which retains the bioactivity of CD14 is provided in an infant formula.

Claim 21 (presently amended): A method of treatment or prevention of Claim 18, wherein the CD14 variant or fragment ~~includes~~ comprises an isolated protein having no ~~Θ-glycosylation~~ O-glycosylation and an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% homologous with the amino acid sequence of human serum CD14 that includes SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 22 (presently amended): A method of treatment or prevention of Claim 18, ~~including further comprising~~ the step of administering a composition ~~including comprising~~ a protein that does not include ~~Θ-glycosylation~~ O-glycosylation and has an amino acid sequence that is at least 0% homologous with human serum CD14 that includes SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method of treatment of Claim 18 wherein the effective amount of CD14 variant or fragment thereof which retains the bioactivity of CD14 is administered to an infant.